

## Alt-Fuels Car Plans Face Curb

AZCentral.com (8/16/04)

Cities, police departments and other municipal fleets that use alternative-fuel vehicles to meet Arizona's clean-air mandates could face a cloudy future.

Ford and General Motors, the two major suppliers of cars and trucks that run on compressed natural gas or propane, are discontinuing their production after the 2004 model year to focus on gas/electric hybrid vehicles and hydrogen-fuel research.

[\(Full Story\)](#)

Since Richard is currently fully pre-occupied with his other duties in the Air Quality Division, we decided to drop in a little humor for our older readers. Hope you don't mind.

## A Poem for Computer Users over 30

A computer was something on TV  
 From a science fiction show of note  
 A window was something you hated to clean  
 And ram was the cousin of a goat.

Meg was the name of my girlfriend  
 And gig was a job for the nights  
 Now they all mean different things  
 And that really mega bytes.  
 An application was for employment  
 A program was a TV show  
 A cursor used profanity  
 A keyboard was a piano.

Memory was something that you lost with age  
 A CD was a bank account  
 And if you had a 3-inch floppy  
 You hoped nobody found out.  
 Compress was something you did to the garbage  
 Not something you did to a file  
 And if you unzipped anything in public  
 You'd be in jail for a while.

Log on was adding wood to the fire  
 Hard drive was a long trip on the road  
 A mouse pad was where a mouse lived  
 And a backup happened to your commode.  
 Cut you did with a pocket knife  
 Paste you did with glue  
 A web was a spider's home

And a virus was the flu.  
 I guess I'll stick to my pad and paper  
 And the memory in my head  
 I hear nobody's been killed in a computer crash  
 But when it happens they wish they were dead.

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Since Mr. Polito has been temporarily assigned to the Air Quality Division, Aaron's workload has increased accordingly. Bill Doppler is filling in on this Newsletter for Aaron Corey till things get back to normal.

## Recent Press ...

### Heat islands warm up Valley nights

By Mary Jo Pitzl / The Arizona Republic (8-20-04)

Urban heat islands are created during the day, but their real effect is felt at night.

[\(Full Story\)](#)

# Sustaining Water Resources

AZCentral.com (8/18/04)

### State stashes big share of water underground

Arizona's two largest water providers spilled billions of gallons of water onto dry riverbeds and flat, undeveloped desert over the past decade, enough since 1994 to fill Tempe Town Lake 600 times. And they did it on purpose.

[\(Full Story\)](#)

### Risk from inland fish grows

By John Heilprin / Associated Press (8-25-04)

WASHINGTON - One of every three lakes in the United States and nearly one-quarter of the nation's rivers contain enough pollution that people should limit or avoid eating fish caught there.

[\(Full Story\)](#)

### Pink stain helps farms fight thieves

By Roxana Hegeman / Associated Press 8-22-04

WICHITA, Kan. - It may fall a shade shy of catching thieves red-handed, but for farmers fed up with methamphetamine cooks filching their fertilizer, staining them pink will do just fine.

[\(Full Story\)](#)

### REPORT: 1.3 MILLION MORE AMERICANS IN POVERTY

MSNBC news.com (8-24-04) The nation's poverty rate rose for a third straight year in 2003 and the ranks of the uninsured swelled, the Census Bureau said Thursday in a report sure to fuel election-season debate over President Bush's handling of the economy.

[\(Full Story\)](#)

### Up close: Schwarzenegger's green guru

Inside MS NBC.com (8-26-04)

California EPA chief on global warming and hydrogen promise

[\(Full Story\)](#)

## EPA fines Arizona fertilizer supply companies \$14,910

For Immediate Release: August 26, 2004  
Contact: Wendy L. Chavez, (415) 947-4248  
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SAN FRANCISCO -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today fined four Arizona fertilizer companies a total of \$14,910 for failing to develop and implement procedures aimed at safeguarding the community from chemicals stored at their facilities.

Fertizona-Yuma, Fertizona-Coolidge, Fertizona-San Tan, and Fertizona Casa Grande stored anhydrous ammonia -- an extremely hazardous chemical -- in quantities over 10,000 pounds. The facilities failed to ensure that all elements of their risk management program, as required under the Clean Air Act, had been prepared and implemented.

"These facilities manage a hazardous chemical that pose a real threat to human health," said Keith Takata, the EPA's Superfund Division director for the Pacific Southwest region. A Companies have a responsibility to the surrounding community and emergency responders to manage these chemicals properly. "

The EPA discovered the violations through routine surveillance of facilities in the area and in coordination with the Arizona State Emergency Response Commission.

Anhydrous ammonia is classified by the Clean Air Act and the Occupational Safety & Health Administration as a hazardous chemical, and can cause severe burns from freezing and corrosion. Exposure to anhydrous ammonia may cause eye damage and ulceration on contact with lungs and skin.

A federal risk management program requires companies to prepare and implement written procedures to ensure that the risk posed by a chemical used, stored or produced at the facility are managed safely where quantities exceed a certain amount and there is a risk of off-site impact from a release.

### Handy Home Pages:

Currently, there are two that meet our criteria:

[www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org)

and

[www.energyhog.org](http://www.energyhog.org) (Requires a FLASH player)

**Please, check them out!**

## Jess Lotwala's ECO-TIP of the week

Our Environmental Tip of the Week is courtesy of the Washington state Department of Ecology. Spending \$5 to replace an old, leaky or missing gas cap on your automobile will save as much as a gallon of gasoline every 15 days and keep about 165 pounds of toxic, cancer-causing chemicals per year from getting into the air. A new gas cap pays for itself in less than three months. The next time you fill up, check your cap. If it's cracked or won't make a good seal, it's time to buy a new one.

Last year in Washington, about 5 percent of tested vehicles were found to be using faulty gas caps. That translates to about 19,000 tons of chemicals, such as benzene, entering the air.

## Side Lines:

## The Green Scene:

### Office Depot, HP start free tech recycling

MSNBC (July 16, 2004): The world's two largest personal-computer manufacturers have gotten a little greener. Hewlett-Packard Co. and Dell Inc. this week announced free programs to encourage U.S. consumers to recycle toxics-filled computers and electronics.

[\(Click for Full Story\)](#)

**LINKS:**

[Recycle Technology Hardware](#)



### Explorer kicks gas habit on road trip over 16,000 miles

MSNBC (July 29, 2004): An Australian explorer and TV host has gone where no American has gone before: Driving 16,000 miles around the United States on two dozen vehicles powered not by fossil fuel but by alternative energy -- from solar power to cow pies.

[\(Click for Full Story\)](#)

**LINKS:**

[www.ecotrekker.com](http://www.ecotrekker.com)



### A new EPA Web site offers environmental policies

and best practices from countries around the world including Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and Australia. The on-line global library provides links to journals, databases, guidelines, programs and case studies involving innovations in air, toxics, waste and water issues, as well as multimedia approaches, such as Environmental Management Systems, sustainable transport, smart growth and industrial ecology. It provides examples of state and local partnerships with other countries and regions that have resulted in creative environmental solutions in the United States such as: constructed wetlands to treat wastewater; green buildings and renewable energy to address climate and air pollution; industrial ecology to support pollution prevention and brownfields revitalization; a list of fellowships for group and individual exchanges; and a number of resources on evaluating international initiatives. The library will help state and local governments, federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, as well as other countries learn from these experiments. For more information, visit the website:

**LINKS:** <http://www.epa.gov/innovation/international>

[EPA](#)



**Alternative Fuel Vehicle**